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October 24, 2003

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 772-8660 **INTERNET ADDRESS:** TDURKIN@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

> Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application

> > Appl. No. 10/623,584; Filed: July 22, 2003

For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**

Takada et al. Inventors:

Our Ref: 0666.0980004/TGD/RLP

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2. Two pages of Form PTO/SB/08A, listing 33 documents (A1-V1, AA1-AC1 and A2-I2);
- One page of Form PTO/SB/08B, listing 2 documents (A3 and B3); and 3.
- 4. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents October 24, 2003 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,831

TGD/RLP:dbj Enclosures

SKGF_DC1:191175.1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Takada et al.

Appl. No. 10/623,584

Filed: July 22, 2003

For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**

Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 0666.0980004/TGD/RLP

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- □ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- M 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- □ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - □ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - □ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry,

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□ c.	Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card F	Payment Form [OR] Check No.			
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- □ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.

- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- N 7. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. 09/923,329, filed August 8, 2001, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 32,831

Date: 10/24/63

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SKGF_DC1:191172.1

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. C mplete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO 10/623,584 **Application Number** July 22, 2003 Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Takada et al. First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPLICANTO To be assigned Art Unit To be assigned Examiner Name (Use as many sheets as necessary) 0666.0980003/TGD/RLP 2 4 2003 Attorney Docket Number 3 2 Sheet UNSPATENT DOZUMENTS Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Publication BRADEN Name of patentee or Applicant of Cited Document Document Number Number - Kind Code² (if known) Examiner Cite MM-DD-YYYY Figures Appear Initials Okada et al. 02/04/1997 US-5598748 A2 Hauser 3/25/1997 US-5613409 B2 04/22/1997 Iida et al. C2 US-5622051 Thoma 05/06/1997 US-5626465 D2 Ohashi et al. 01/20/1998 US-5709141 E2 Takada et al. 09/01/1998 F2 US-5799486 Eberle 11/30/1999 G2 US-5992150 Takada et al. 04/17/2001 US-6216560 H2 11/13/2001 Shimizu 12 US-6314730 US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-US-FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Name of Patentee or Publication Date Foreign Patent Document Relevant Passages or Relevant Cite No.1 Applicant or Cited Document Examiner MM-DD-YYYY T6 Initials* Figures Appear Country Code3 - Number 4 - Kind Code5 (if known) Date Examiner Considered

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·	OCT 2 4 2003						Application Number		10/623,584			
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STATEMENT BY APPECANT					Art Unit		To be assigned					
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Sheet	3	3 of 3					Attorney Docket Numb	per	0666.0980004/TGD/RLP			
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	A3	TRYLINSKI, W., Fine Mechanisms and Precision Instruments, New York, Pergamon Press, (1971) pp. 332-334, TJ181 T7.										
	B3	SHIGLEY, J.E., "Lubrication and Journal Bearings" in Mechanical Engineering Design, New York, McGraw-Hill, (1983) p. 562.										
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